(c) whether Air India has sought security clearance for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Traffic rights are sovereign rights and are exchanged between Governments through bilateral negotiations. Only commercial co-operative arrangements such as pool, code share/block space and joint venture arrangements, are signed at airline level, which are always subject to the approval of the aeronautical authorities. Government level air services consultations have been held with three Gulf countries, namely, Oman, Kuwait and Dubai since January 2001. Seat entitlements for operation of air services between India and the three Gulf countries mentioned above have been increased by a total of 3700 seats per week. The designated airlines of Oman, Kuwait and Dubai have also been granted access to Cochin and in addition designated airline of Dubai has also been granted Hyderabad.

All the Airlines are required to get their security programme approved by the respective authorities of the country to which they are operating to before commencement of actual operation.

Discount scheme of IA and Alliance Air

1634. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Alliance Air have offered heavy discounts and schemes inspite of the fact that the Airlines is running into heavy losses;

(b) if so, in what manner airlines plans to manage losses created by offering unwanted discounts; and

(c) the details of discounts and schemes offered by Indian Airlines during the last one year and how much is the loss to Indian Airlines on this during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines is operating in a highly competitive market scenario and private airlines are offering

a host of incentives/discounts to attract more passengers. In order to remain competitive and retain its market share, Indian Airlines has to take various initiatives including offering of various incentives and discounts. In view of this, it will not be correct to say that losses are caused by discounts. If Indian Airlines had not come up with these initiatives to meet the challenge posed by the aggressive marketing efforts of private airlines, its profitability would have been eroded further. A list of the discount schemes is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Details of discounts offered by Indian Airlines Ltd.

* All discounts unless and until specified otherwise, shall be applicable on Indian Airlines Domestic Network on Economic Class INR Sector fares only.
* All discounts are applicable on the Fare Component of INR fares/full USD fares.
* In case of INR fares, IATT and PSF are charged full unless and until specified otherwise.
* Special Fares—Domestic—applicable to Indians and Foreigners residing in India unless specified otherwise.
* All Special Fares are vaild for travel only in Economy Class, unless specified otherwise.
* No Special Fares/Discounts are available on Flights operated by a Dornier aircraft.

CONCESSIONS

1.	Armed Forces Discount Booking Class 'M'	50% discount, Members of Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force) who are in active service and their family members travelling at their own expense.

2.	Personnel of General Reserve Engineering Force Booking Class 'M'	50% discount, Members of General Reserve Engineering Forces and their family members travelling at their own expense.
3.	War Disabled Persons Booking Class 'M'	W.e.f. 1st February, 2001, 75% Discount to War Disabled Persons and 50% discount to their family members. Journey must commence or terminate at the permanent address/nearest airport to the place of residence of the eligible passenger. Basis list of disabled officials supplied by Army Headquarters.
4.	Discount to War Widows Booking Class 'M'	W.e.f. 1st February, 2001, 75% discount is offered to War widows. Basis ID Card issued by Army Headquarters.
5.	Ex-Armed Forces Personnel who are recipient of Bravery Award (Level I & II, i.e. Paramvir Chakra/Ashok Chakra and Mahavir Chakra/ Kirti Chakra) Booking Class 'M'	W.e.f. 1st February, 2001, 75% discount is offered to Ex-Armed Forces Personnel who are recipient of Bravery Award (level I and II). Basis ID Card issued by Army Headquarters.
6.	Para Military Forces Discount BSF/ITBP/CISF/ CRPF / RPG / NSG / SSB / Coast Guards / Assam Rifles IB* Introduced w.e.f. 1st February, 2001 (*Introduced w.e.f. 24th April, 2001) Booking Class 'M'	50% Discount to Para Military Forces who are in active service and their family members travelling at their own expense.

7.	Of Presidents Police Medal for Gallantry and Police Medal for Gallantry Introduced w.e.f. 1st February, 2001 Booking Class 'M'	75% discount Introduced w.e.f. 1st February, 2001.
8.	Recipients of Gallantry Awards Civilians (Introduced w.e.f. 17.10.96) Booking Class 'M'	W.e.f. 1st February, 2001, 75% discount is offered to the Awardees of 'Ashoka' & 'Kirti' Chakra. List supplied by Ministry of Home or on the Basis of the ID Card issued by Ministry of Home.
9.	Student Discount Booking Class 'M'	50% Discount on Normal sector and Point to Point Fare. W.e.f. 7th December, 1998, available for travel without any restriction for travel between Home Town and place of Study. Embargo may be placed on flights having High seat factor.
10.	Senior Citizens Discount (Introduced w.e.f. 1.8.94) Booking Class 'M'	50% Discount on fare, to those Citizens, who have completed 65 years of age in the case of Male Passengers and (w.e.f. 29th August, 2000) 63 years of age in the case of female passengers on the date of commencement of journey.
11.	Family Discount for travel between Chennai-Port Blair and Kolkata-Port Blair Booking Class 'M'	With effect from 15th July, 1999. Discount of Rs. 250/- on the fare if minimum two members of a family travel together.

12.	Blind Persons Discount Booking Class 'M'	50% discount on Normal sector fare and Point to Point Fares (IATT exempted. Full PSF).
13.	Cancer Patient Discount Booking Class 'M'	50% Discount on Normal sector fare and Point to Point Fare. For travel between (Place of Residence and Place of treatment only). (IATT exempted. Full PSF). For patients travelling in connection with the treatment only.
14.	Locomotor Disability Discount (Introduced on the direction of Supreme Court of India w.e.f. 30.1.99) Booking Class 'M'	50% discount on Normal sector fare and Point to Point Fare to Disabled Persons, suffering from 80% and above Locomotor Disability.
15.	Stretcher Fare. Special Fare is offered to the Invalid passengers on Stretcher (w.e.f. 26th November, 1999) Booking Class 'Y'	Four times the Normal Published Adult Fare Component (in INR/USD) for carriage of Stretcher on all types of aircraft except on Dornier aircraft. On Dornier Aircraft Fare for carriage of Stretcher is Three times the Normal Published Adult Fare Component (in INR/USD) IATT exempted and one PSF charged.
	Fare for the Carriage of Stretcher from/to Port Blair, Leh and Agatti (w.e.f. 29th August, 2000) Booking Class 'Y'	Single Sector fare (in INR/ USD) is applicable for the Carriage of Stretcher from/to Port Blair, Leh and Agatti. IATT and PSF is charged full in case of INR Fare.

16.	Concession to Sports Persons participating in National Sports Events. Booking Class 'M'	25% Discount on fare to Sports persons hailing from the States in the North Eastern Region for travel between Kolkata and Guwahati on one hand and a Station within North-Eastern Region on the other hand.
17.	Tour Conductor's Discount Booking Class 'Y'	50% Discount for Tour Conductor while accompanying a group of 10 to 14 full fare paying passengers and 100% Discount while accompanying a group of 15 full fare paying passengers. Applicable for both INR & USD fare. On 50% discount on INR fare. Full IATT and PSF applicable. On 50% discount on USD fare. IATT and PSF not applicable. On 100% free ticket for Tour Conductor (Accompanying passengers travelling on USD/ INR fare). Full IATT applicable and PSF not applicable.
18.	Child Fare (between 2 years to 12 years of age) Booking Class 'Y'	50% of the Normal Adult Sector Fares in INR/USD is charged—IATT is 15% of the child fare component & PSF is charged in full. Child fare is also applicable on Point to Point Fares.

19.	Infant Fare (up to 2 years of age) No Booking Class for INF (as no seats booked. For Infant).	10% of the Normal Adult Sector Fares in INR/USD is charged. IATT and PSF is not applicable.

Losses suffered by IA due to aviation fuel

1635. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines are incurring losses worth crores of Rupees on aviation fuel due to connivance between some officials of air traffic control and private airliners;

(b) whether Government have received any such complaint; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) There have been occasions when incoming flights were put to hold and departing aircraft made to wait at holding point for a longer period or desired flight levels not allocated to Indian Airlines flights by Air Traffic Control (ATC). This results in consumption of extra fuel.

(b) and (c) The details of the three such instances which recently came to the notice of the Government were looked into. These details are as follows:—

(i) A complaint was received through Press Clipping entitled "IA loss is ATC officials' gain" dated 7th January, 2002 of the Asian Age. It was alleged that ATC at Ahmedabad was having understanding with pilots of private airlines and the Indian Airlines' flights are put "on hold" in the air. The matter has been investigated and it was found that the complaint was baseless. Ahmedabad Airport is equipped with the state-of-art MSSR Radar. The traffic density at Ahmedabad Airport is very low and all the aircraft are provided radar services both in the Approach Control and Area Control. Ahmedabad ATC is